

Remarks

Applicants have amended the specification pursuant to the Examiner's comments in order: 1) to reference the priority application and 2) to correct various typographical errors in labeling the tables.

Claims 17-18 have been canceled. Claim 14 has been amended to specify a particular position within SEQ ID NO:1 and NO:3 at which protease resistance occurs. Claim 19 has been amended to change the dependency from claim 18 (now canceled) to claim 14, and to delete one occurrence of the word "pharmaceutical".

Rejection of Claims 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph, for alleged non-enablement and lack of written description support. Applicants do not concede either basis for this rejection. However in the interest of expediting the case Applicants have amended the claims to specify a particular site within the FLINT molecule at which protease resistance occurs, namely between positions 218 and 219 of mature FLINT (SEQ ID NO:1), or positions 247-248 of full length FLINT (SEQ ID NO:3).

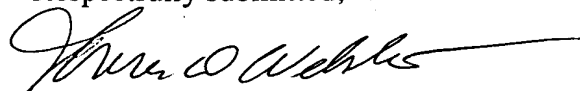
Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this basis of the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph, allegedly for non-enablement. Without conceding the basis for this rejection, and pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended claim 19 to remove one occurrence of the word "pharmaceutical" while retaining the word "pharmaceutically" as a descriptor elsewhere in the claim. Applicants submit this basis for the rejection has been removed. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that all grounds for the rejection have now been removed and that a timely Notice of Allowance should be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No. 10/069,385

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December 9, 2004